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ABSTRACT

These student activity sheets are intended to accompany a vocational English program based on Studs Terkel's book, "Working," a collection of more than 100 interviews with people about their jobs. The 30 interviews selected for inclusion in the curriculum either illustrate occupations taught in the schools or deal with occupations related to those for which students train or which they can attain. The objective of the program is to help the student get a much clearer picture of the world of work. In addition, it proves a student's English course can make a real contribution to career education and enhance the vocational competence of students in vocational programs. Each of the 30 worksheets contains true or false statements and questions for discussion; some also include projects. These may be completed in or out of class, written or orally, by individuals or groups. (YLB)

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

# WORKING

## Student Activity Sheets for Selected Interviews Contained in "Working" by Studs Terkel

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CE047204

EN-322

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State of New Jersey
Department of Education
Division of Vocational Education

# "WORKING"

## Student Activity Sheets for Selected Interviews Contained in "Working" by Studs Terkel

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS


| | Page |
|---|---|
| To the Student | i |
| Table of Contents from "Working" – Studs Terkel | ii |
| Newspaper Boys | 1S |
| Mason | 2S |
| Farmer | 3S |
| Heavy Equipment Operator | 4S |
| Telephone Operator | 5S |
| Executive Secretary | 6S |
| Telephone Solicitor | 7S |
| Garbage Man | 8S |
| Factory Mechanic | 9S |
| Policeman | 10S |
| Industrial Investigator | 11S |
| Spot-Welder | 12S |
| Cab Driver | 13S |
| Truck Driver | 14S |
| Car Salesman | 15S |
| Hair Stylists | 16S |
| Hotel Clerk | 17S |
| Bank Teller | 18S |
| Mail Carrier | 19S |
| Supermarket Checker | 20S |
| Waitress | 21S |
| Housewife | 22S |
| Baseball Player | 23S |
| TV/Radio Executive | 24S |
| Ex-Shipping Clerk | 25S |
| Department Store Salesman | 26S |
| Hospital Aide | 27S |
| Gravedigger | 28S |
| Carpenter/Poet | 29S |
| Policeman | 30S |

## TO THE STUDENT

Studs Terkel's book, *Working*, is a collection of interviews of people who hold many different jobs. Mr. Terkel interviewed all these people, recording what they had to say about their jobs and later writing it down. The words are their exact words just as they spoke them, but most of the questions have been left out. They must have been good questions and Mr. Terkel must be the kind of person others can easily talk to, because the people he interviewed tell about their work with honesty, often revealing both what they have made of their work and what their work has made of them.

The interviews which you will read and discuss will help you get a much clearer picture of the world of work than you now have. It also proves that your course in English has a relationship to work – it is not all academic.

The first interview you may want to read probably will be the one telling about the job you are training for. Then, perhaps, you'll be interested in the description of the jobs the members of your family and friends hold. Your teacher will assign certain interviews to read and ask you to complete assignments based on them. The questions and projects are designed to help you think about the particular job and to draw some conclusions about the kind of job it is and the kind of person who does it. Of course, some of the jobs described will not be the kind of work you will ever be interested in, but they are all jobs you will come in contact with at one time or another. The world of work is a net, and the better we understand the other man's job, the stronger and more efficient the net will be.

These work sheets will help you get more meaning out of the book and so they should prove interesting. *Working* is a great idea and you should benefit greatly from it while you are having a great time reading it.

Here is one word of caution: Some of the people Mr. Terkel interviews are discouraged and unhappy with their jobs. It is important to know why they feel this way, but it is also important to realize that each interview represents just one person's feelings about his/her job.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS
### From "Working" – Studs Terkel


| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Billy Carpenter – Newspaper Boy | 11 |
| | Cliff Pickens – Newspaper Boy | 12 |
| | Terry Pickens – Newspaper Boy | 13 |
| 2. | Carl Murray Bates – Mason | 17 |
| 3. | Pierce Walker – Farmer | 25 |
| 4. | Hub Dillard – Heavy Equipment Operator | 49 |
| 5. | Heather Lamb – Telephone Operator | 65 |
| 6. | Anne Bogan – Executive Secretary | 90 |
| 7. | Enid du Bois – Telephone Solicitor | 139 |
| 8. | Roy Schmidt – Garbage Man | 150 |
| 9. | Lincoln James – Factory Mechanic | 158 |
| 10. | Renault Robinson – Policeman | 193 |
| 11. | Anthony Ruggiero – Industrial Investigator | 201 |
| 12. | Phil Stallings – Spot-Welder | 221 |
| 13. | Booker Page – Cab Driver | 266 |
| 14. | Frank Decker - Truck Driver | 279 |
| 15. | Johnny Bosworth – Car Salesman | 303 |
| 16. | Edward and Hazel Zimmer – Hair Stylists | 317 |
| 17. | Doc Pritchard – Hotel Clerk | 331 |
| 18. | Nancy Rogers – Bank Teller | 344 |
| 19. | John Fuller – Mail Carrier | 361 |
| 20. | Babe Secoli – Supermarket Checker | 374 |
| 21. | Dolores Dante – Waitress | 389 |
| 22. | Therese Carter – Housewife | 396 |
| 23. | Steve Hamilton – Baseball Player | 480 |
| 24. | Ward Quaal – TV/Radio Executive | 511 |
| 25. | Joe Zmuda – Ex-Shipping Clerk | 562 |
| 26. | Ralph Werner – Department Store Salesman | 590 |
| 27. | Cathleen Moran – Hospital Aide | 613 |
| 28. | Elmer Ruiz – Gravedigger | 658 |
| 29. | Nick Lindsay – Carpenter/Poet | 669 |
| 30. | Bob Patrick – Policeman | 748 |

## NEWSPAPER BOYS

Billy Carpenter, Cliff Pickens, Terry Pickens

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Billy doesn't give special treatment to anyone.
2. _____ Billy has some problems when it comes to collecting.
3. _____ Cliff actually enjoys throwing the papers.
4. _____ Cliff finds that a lot of his papers are stolen.
5. _____ Terry spent 150 dollars in one summer and had nothing to show for it.
6. _____ Terry is amazed at how well the printing corporation does its job.
7. _____ Terry has had several bad experiences with dogs.
8. _____ Terry basically dislikes his customers.
9. _____ Terry admits that being a newsboy molds character.

**B. Questions for discussion.**

1. Do you think Billy should deliver the papers exactly where each customer requests?
2. Tell about two of Terry's problems with collecting.
3. Terry felt that he wasted $150 on nothing (cokes, candy, games, etc.). Do you think that was a waste of money?
4. How does the printing corporation fail to do its job?
5. How does Terry feel about the guy who convinced him to take the job?
6. Do you agree with Terry's customers who say that they're doing him a favor by taking the paper? Explain.
7. How does Terry view the younger customers? The older customers?
8. How does Terry lose profits?
9. How has being a newsboy affected Terry's attitude toward people?

**C. Projects**

1. Billy, Cliff and Terry certainly disagree on the merits of being a newsboy. Devise a set of questions from these articles. Then use your experiences, or those of a friend, or your current newsboy to compare with Terkel's findings.
2. Using the same source as in #1, find out about several of the person's most unusual experiences while on the job. Get the details and share the incidents with the class.

**MASON**
Carl Murray Bates

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____Builders always begin building on the northeast corner.
2. _____Every piece of stone is the same.
3. _____Bates finds that a day of laying stone is very tiring.
4. _____Bates doesn't feel that he's gotten any recognition for his work.
5. _____None of Bates' sons have become masons.
6. _____It usually takes about two or three years experience as a hod carrier to become a mason.
7. _____Automation has replaced the mason.
8. _____Stone houses start at sixty or seventy thousand dollars.
9. _____Modern techniques have actually improved the quality of bricks.
10. _____An advantage to Bates' work is that he can see it for the rest of his life.

**B. Questions for discussion.**

1. Explain why builders always begin construction on the northeast corner.
2. The mason feels that his work is heavy but not tiring because he's interested in his work. Is that true of work in general? (Explain)
3. Explain why a good hod carrier is important to the mason.
4. Though his sons did not become masons, they seem to appreciate and use his expertise. In what ways?
5. How has automation affected the mason's work?
6. What are some of Bates' dreams?
7. What particular job does Bates look on as his greatest accomplishment?
8. Bates can see the results of his work for the rest of his life. Is that possible in your trade? (Explain)

**C. Projects**

1. Check the houses on your block. How many are built with brick or stone? Is it used for trim only? Record your results and make some general conclusions about the use of stone or brick in your neighborhood.
2. Check the real estate section of the local paper. How many houses listed there are built with brick or stone? How do the prices compare with similar size homes constructed of other materials?
3. Does this look like a good trade for the future?

## FARMER
Pierce Walker

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ If Walker owned a lot of land he would farm it himself and get rich.
2. _____ Walker sees a bright future for the small farmer in America.
3. _____ Modern farming methods are so advanced that the farmer doesn't have to worry too much about the weather.
4. _____ Farm machinery is very expensive.
5. _____ Walker's fourteen-year-old daughter drives a tractor for him.
6. _____ According to Walker, the farmer doesn't get a very big percentage of the money spent for food.
7. _____ Walker believes that chemicals are probably a necessity for big farms.
8. _____ Walker was glad his son left the farm.
9. _____ Walker will be glad when the farmers organize into a union of some sort since it will mean more money for him.
10. _____ A lot of the young people who go to college don't return to the farm.

**B. Questions.**

1. Why does Pierce Walker stay with farming if he finds the work so difficult?
2. What does Walker's son do, and why did he leave farming?
3. From the postscript at the end of this interview make a guess about how much help Walker can expect from the federal government.
4. Many young people are "going back to the land." What is your reaction?
5. What is your reaction to the statement that the farmer is responsible for today's high food prices?

**C. Library Project**

In an encyclopedia, look up the percentage of people on farms in America for the past fifty-five years – 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970. What do these figures suggest is happening to the small farmer?

## HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
Hub Dillard

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ A crane operator has to be a very precise worker.
2. _____ A crane operator is under a lot of tension.
3. _____ When your job becomes a habit you are a lot safer according to Dillard.
4. _____ Crane operators have a longer-than-average life span.
5. _____ Dillard's injury resulted from someone giving him bad information.
6. _____ Dillard feels that crane operators are underpaid.
7. _____ Dillard was a watchmaker before he became a crane operator.

**B. Questions**

1. When Dillard is out of work why can't he just go around and apply for a job at another construction site?

2. Why did Dillard become a crane operator? How much do you think people's families and upbringing are responsible for the kind of work they do for a living?

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a crane operator?

## TELEPHONE OPERATOR
Heather Lamb

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ The telephone operator is very limited in what she may say to a customer.
2. _____ Heather has many close friends at "Ma Bell."
3. _____ Heather's arms get tired from all the "plugging in."
4. _____ Heather deals with only one call at a time.
5. _____ Important businessmen can cause trouble for an operator.
6. _____ Heather has a habit of listening in on people's conversations.
7. _____ "Ma Bell" is more permissive with the older women.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. What does Heather mean by saying that she's "a communications person who can't communicate?"
2. Describe the social atmosphere at Ma Bell.
3. What is Heather's complaint with the working conditions?
4. Explain how the operator can tell which denominations of coins were deposited.
5. Explain the clock.
6. In what sense does Heather feel powerful?
7. How does Heather react when callers ask for dates?
8. What types of things do "Ma Bell" supervisors listen for?
9. What does Heather say about the older women?
10. What does Heather really appreciate while working?
11. Most operators are women. Should there be more male operators?

**C. Projects**

Call an operator and ask permission to interview her by phone when she's not working. In your interview you should discuss the same areas as Terkel. Write up your results as a contrast comparison between this person and Heather Lamb.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Anne Bogan

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Anne Bogan works for the president of a corporation.
2. _____ Anne Bogan admires people who dream about all the things they want to do.
3. _____ Anne seldom sees and never works for any of the other executives. just the president.
4. _____ Working with other women rather than men is Anne Bogan's ambition.
5. _____ When Anne first got married, she and her husband moved around a lot and she enjoyed that.
6. _____ Anne goes to dinner with businessmen quite often and enjoys it.
7. _____ Being a good listener is Anne's reason for her success.
8. _____ Anne believes that a wife of an executive would be a better wife if she had been a secretary first.

**B. Questions for discussion.**

1. a) Why does Anne Bogan like working on the "corporate end of things?"
   b) How do the executives treat Anne?

2. a) Anne says that she has always enjoyed associating with men more than with women. Why?
   b) Do you agree with Anne?

3. Anne associates with many executives who are divorced. What reasons does she give for this?

## TELEPHONE SOLICITOR

Enid du Bois

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ The sound of her voice helped her get the job.
2. _____ Commissions in ghetto areas were higher since papers were harder to sell.
3. _____ Enid liked her chief supervisor.
4. _____ Enid became accustomed to lying to people.
5. _____ Enid was given a good area to start in order to condition her.
6. _____ People in the poor areas really wanted to help the charities.
7. _____ When the blind man took the paper to help, Enid was convinced that her job was a rewarding one.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. How did the location of the job influence Enid?
2. Explain what it meant to be subsidized.
3. Explain how commissions were paid.
4. Why did some of the women work overtime?
5. How does Enid describe her chief supervisor?
6. a. Summarize Enid's general reactions to calls to the middle class areas.
   b. To the poor areas.
7. What incident convinced Enid to look for another job?
8. If you were offered the job of telephone solicitor, would you accept it? Why?
9. How do your parents react to telephone solicitations?

**C. Project**

Make a list of occupations in which you feel people often deceive people to be successful. Include specific things they do.

## GARBAGE MAN
Roy Schmidt

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Roy has long discussions with the other men he works with.
2. _____ Roy says the work is physically very hard.
3. _____ He says you can tell how people live from the garbage they throw away.
4. _____ Roy's child is probably going to be a garbage man too.
5. _____ Roy's wife would like him to get another job, but he is too old now.

**B. Questions**

1. Why does Roy prefer the job as a garbage man to being a bookkeeper?
2. What does Roy have to look forward to over the next few years?
3. Why won't Roy get a good pension from the city when he retires?
4. Why is the garbage man so valuable to society?

## FACTORY MECHANIC

Lincoln James

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Glue comes from bone marrow.
2. _____ Exporting grease to foreign countries is a big business.
3. _____ More women are working in the glue factory.
4. _____ The odor in the factory is terrible.
5. _____ Lipstick manufacturers use the grease supplied by the glue factory.
6. _____ Although the glue factory is not the cleanest place to work, there is little chance of infection.
7. _____ One of the main hazards in working at the glue factory was the frequent accidents.
8. _____ Getting bad burns from the residue kept many employees from returning to work for months.
9. _____ The number of employees in the glue factory has doubled in recent years.
10. _____ Younger people have a poor attitude about working in the factory for very long.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. What are some of the hazards that go along with working in a glue factory?
2. What are some of the products besides glue that are made from the residue at a glue factory?
3. Why does Lincoln James believe that the younger employees are not interested in their work?

**C. Jargon:** Terms used exclusively in a job, sport, or business are called jargon. Define the following terms as used in Lincoln James' story: *scrap* and *rendering*.

**D. Projects**

Get in touch with the Board of Health and find out what the criteria is for condemning a factory as a health hazard. Write an essay concerning your findings and be ready to present it to the class.

**POLICEMAN**
Renault Robinson

**A. According to this police officer are the following statements true or false?**

1. _____ Blacks control vice and gambling in the city.
2. _____ Many arrests are made by paying off informers.
3. _____ The police concentrate most of their efforts on organized crime.
4. _____ A police officer doesn't spend much time in court.
5. _____ It is easy to stop a citizen on a traffic violation.
6. _____ The police officer almost always tries to tell the truth in court.
7. _____ The arrest is more important than a conviction to a police officer.
8. _____ The young white cop wants to be sent to the black neighborhoods.
9. _____ The younger policemen are more prejudiced than the older ones.
10. _____ Robinson is a dedicated police officer who will probably be promoted.

**B. Questions**

1. Robinson severely criticizes the police force for its corruption and prejudice. He has been persecuted for organizing the Afro-American Patrolman's League and may lose his job. What reasons does he have for wanting to be a policeman?

2. Robinson talks about the double standard policemen have for the black and white communities. What are some other examples of double standards?

3. Robinson talks about the bad qualities of policemen. What are the qualities of a good policeman?

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the way policemen are promoted in Chicago?

**C. Project**

Robinson compares policemen in Chicago to salesmen. Although they are not paid for making arrests, they are given points toward promotion. The result is that it is sometimes more important for a policeman to make arrests than to do the right thing. Find out how the policemen in your community are promoted. Is it different from the Chicago point system? Is it a better or a worse system?

## INDUSTRIAL INVESTIGATOR
Anthony Ruggiero

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ According to Anthony Ruggiero, there are many job openings in the undercover investigation field.
2. _____ Undercover agents are often very helpful to the police.
3. _____ If you are fired for theft you are no longer eligible for unemployment insurance.
4. _____ Anthony's only job is to catch someone stealing from a company.
5. _____ Many of the people Anthony catches eventually serve time in jail.
6. _____ Anthony carries identification with him all the time in case he is picked up by the police.
7. _____ Anthony thinks people are more moral than they were in the past.
8. _____ Some of the jobs Anthony works on take several months or even more.
9. _____ Anthony is not very impressed with the job the police force is doing.
10. _____ Anthony hopes to have his own undercover business some day.

**B. Questions**

1. When someone is caught stealing, such as the man who worked for the company for twenty-five years, should he be fired immediately? What are some arguments both for and against?
2. Anthony says that most people don't steal for the money; they are not criminals. What is your definition of a criminal? Can someone steal and not be a criminal?
3. Anthony says more and more people will be under surveillance in the future. In your opinion, is this a good or bad thing? Give some reasons for your point of view.
4. What is your personal reaction to doing this for a living?
5. What do you think of Diane's arguments against taking a lie-detector test?

**SPOT-WELDER**
Phil Stallings

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____The noise at this Ford plant makes talking nearly impossible.
2. _____Phil escapes his work by day-dreaming.
3. _____Phil is thankful that there is little pressure on him.
4. _____Phil feels that the machines are cared for better than the men.
5. _____Phil's job is physically demanding and dangerous.
6. _____Phil finds that the system encourages pride in work.
7. _____Phil rarely complains because he's afraid it may cost him his job.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. How many cars does Phil weld in an eight-hour day?
2. What elements discourage people from socializing?
3. How does the treatment of men and machines compare?
4. a. What are some advantages to being foreman?
   b. Disadvantages?
5. Give two examples of the poor medical treatment Phil has received.
6. Phil really wants a job in utility. What advantages does he see in that job?
7. Explain "Thirty and Out".
8. Tell about the time the line was down for twenty minutes.

**C. Project**

1. Phil says that "repetition is such that if you were to think about the job itself, you'd slowly go out of your mind." Interview people whose jobs are repetitious, to find out how they cope. Write up a description of their tasks and their means of coping.
2. Make a list of various types of jobs you consider repetitious. Would you accept any of them?

**CAB DRIVER**
Booker Page

**A. According to Booker Page are the following statements true or false?**

1. _____ There is little or no physical confinement involved in being a cab driver.
2. _____ Being constantly on the go, a cab driver has no time to gain weight.
3. _____ Seamen today even include college graduates.
4. _____ Seamen are mostly old now.
5. _____ The big topics at sea are sports and politics.
6. _____ While at port even the most happily married men would run around with other women.
7. _____ As a cab driver, a person can relax and daydream.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. The philosophical definition of freedom is "to do that which one ought to do" rather than that which one wants to do. Keeping this in mind,was Booker Page "free?" Explain.

2. Was Booker Page happily married? Back up your answer with facts from the interview.

3. What were some of the differences between being a seaman and a cab driver?

4. How does the life of a cab driver appeal to you?

**TRUCK DRIVER**
Frank Decker

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ There is a lot of waiting around involved in a steel hauler's job.
2. _____ At least Frank has most of his weekends free.
3. _____ A truck driver's job is lonely.
4. _____ Many truckers have a wild love life with all of the waitresses they know.
5. _____ On the expressways you can relax and pretty much let the truck drive itself.
6. _____ Truckers don't pick up many hitchhikers even though they would like to.
7. _____ There is a big turnover of truckers who find they can't make it in the business.
8. _____ The Teamsters Union did a lot to help the truckers with their strike.
9. _____ Most policemen do not bother truckers,according to Frank Decker.
10. _____ Frank Decker has a lot of respect for Frank Fitzsimmons and Jimmy Hoffa.

**B. Questions.**

1. What did the truckers win in their wildcat strike in 1967?
2. How have the changes in our highways over the past fifteen or twenty years made the truckers' job easier?
3. What are some of the physical ailments of truckers that almost go with the job?
4. What is life like for the wife of a trucker?
5. What has Frank Decker found in the fifty-dollar-a-week organization job that makes him keep at it seven days a week?
6. How have trucks affected other forms of transportation in this country?
7. Should a state put special controls on truck transportation? What controls, if any?
8. How would you like to be a truck driver?

## CAR SALESMAN
Johnny Bosworth

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Bosworth feels that his product sells itself.
2. _____ Bosworth usually avoids young, long-haired kids.
3. _____ Bosworth finds the "pipe-smoker" the easiest to sell.
4. _____ Bosworth feels that at present the world could not survive without the salesman.
5. _____ Bosworth is a Ralph Nader fan.

**B. Questions for discussion.**

1. a. How is Bosworth's office different from others?
   b. Would that make a difference to you as a customer?
2. Bosworth feels that the product sells itself. From your experience, how important is the salesman to you when purchasing a major item?
3. In your opinion, how well did Bosworth handle the situation with the trouble-maker?
4. According to Bosworth, what are the disadvantages of buying a four-speed?
5. What does the car salesman have in terms of job security?
6. What is Bosworth's criticism of Ralph Nader?
7. What are Bosworth's main complaints about the buying public and the way they view him?
8. What sort of person makes a good salesman? Would you like to be a salesman?

C. Jargon: Terms used exclusively in a job, sport, or business are called jargon. Define the following terms as used in the Bosworth story.

1. butcher room
2. dreck
3. closing room
4. box
5. souped-up

**D. Projects**

1. Visit a local car showroom. Without naming names react to the place and its people. Closely observe the treatment you receive. Write up your findings and be prepared to share them with the class.

2. Bosworth says little about the financial end of his business. How many hours does he work; how is he paid; etc. Interview a car salesman to find the answers to these and other related questions. Write a report based on your findings.

## HAIR STYLISTS

Edward and Hazel Zimmer

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Actors prefer using stylists rather than barbers.
2. _____ Mr. Edward treats all customers the same.
3. _____ Mr. Edward cuts Mrs. Onassis' hair.
4. _____ For social reasons, people flock to places that celebrities use.
5. _____ Edward feels that it's more difficult for a man to become a stylist than for a woman.
6. _____ A hair stylist's personality is important.
7. _____ Hazel admits that she's inferior to many of her customers.
8. _____ Hazel feels that commercialization has hurt the hair styling business.
9. _____ Edward feels that the customer is always right.
10. _____ Edward feels that our society has become too permissive.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. What is the advantage in using a hair stylist rather than a barber?
2. In what way does the stylist adapt to the customer?
3. Why is it more difficult for the male hairdresser?
4. The cop assumed that Edward was "queer". Men in what types of occupations are often prejudged in that manner? Why?
5. a. In what way do some customers try to humiliate the hairdressers?
   b. How do they combat them?
6. How has commercialization affected the hair stylist's business?
7. How does Edward react to our permissive society?
8. Do you feel that males have a place in this business?
9. What do you think of the idea of males having their hair styled rather than just cut?

**C. Project**

Survey a group of friends to find out how they care for their hair. Do they have it styled or merely cut? Do they do it themselves? How much do they pay, etc?

## HOTEL CLERK
Doc Pritchard

**A. According to Doc Pritchard are the following statements true or false?**

1. _____ Hotel clerks are underpaid.
2. _____ Many show people (actors, actresses) used to work in hotels.
3. _____ People respect the hotel clerk.
4. _____ Little or no tension comes with the job of hotel clerk.
5. _____ Good personality and appearance are important for this job.
6. _____ Hotel clerks receive a lot of tips.

**B. Questions for discussion.**

1. a. In reference to his job many people have said to Doc Pritchard, "Why didn't you get out of it a long time ago?" What was his answer to that question?
   b. Do you think it is a valid reason? Why or why not?

2. a. One of the things he did not like about his job was that he felt "trapped." Why?
   b. What did he do to try to overcome that feeling?

3. What are the personal requirements of this job?

**C. Project**

Give examples of how people are judged by their appearance? Is there more dignity in jobs where appearance is stressed (e.g. businessman, secretary, etc.) than in jobs where there is no dress code (e.g. construction worker)? Why or why not?

**BANK TELLER**
Nancy Rogers

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ According to Nancy, the reason there are more women bank tellers than men is because they are better with numbers.
2. _____ In all the years she has worked as a bank teller, Nancy has never been robbed.
3. _____ Nancy was fired from one of her previous jobs.
4. _____ Nancy says her job is a service job, like a housemaid or a servant.
5. _____ Nancy is the kind of worker who goes to work early and leaves late.
6. _____ If Nancy gives someone too much money by accident she has to make up the difference from her own pocket.
7. _____ Nancy is pretty impressed with all the money she gets to handle.
8. _____ The employees in the bank are friendly and have a good time together.
9. _____ Nancy gets along well with the person she shares her cage with.
10. _____ One of the bank's vice-presidents took Nancy out to lunch.

**B. Questions**

1. What are Nancy's views on stealing money from a bank? Would you agree with her? Do you know who ultimately loses money when a bank is robbed?

2. When Nancy tries to give her views on Vietnam, she is told she is just a bank teller. Of the students you know, which one's views are most likely to be respected? Why?

3. Nancy complains about the nasty customers, but says they are always right. What does she mean by this?

4. What are some of the skills and personality traits necessary for this job other than the obvious one of the ability to do math.

5. Nancy comments that she doesn't like the way the bank is set up. "It separates people. People are already separated enough. There are apartment houses where you don't know anybody else in the building..." What reasons would the bank have for separating employees?

## MAIL CARRIER
John Fuller

**A. According to John Fuller are the following statements true or false?**

1. _____This is a profession that everyone has looked up to and respected.
2. _____Until recently mail carriers never made very much money.
3. _____Most people in the post office have two jobs.
4. _____Most women mail carriers do a poor job because they find that the mail bag is too heavy.
5. _____A mail carrier's day begins at 9 o'clock and ends around 3 o'clock.
6. _____The weight of the mail bag has ruined many a good shoulder.
7. _____Mailmen seem to have bad experiences with dogs.
8. _____Mail carriers collect a good pension.

**B. Questions for discussion.**

1. Why does John Fuller believe that his job is one of the most respected professions throughout the nation?

2. a) In your opinion, is it worth having a job which doesn't pay enough money and you have to get a second job?
   b) Why did this not bother John Fuller?

3. According to John Fuller, why is walking good for you?

4. Why do many mail carriers find other jobs after they retire?

5. How important is the mail carrier to our society?

**C. Projects**

Ask a mail carrier to answer the true and false questions in part A. Compare his/her answers with John Fuller's comments. Have things changed much since 1973? How?

## SUPERMARKET CHECKER
Babe Secoli

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ When Babe first became a checker she had to write down the prices since there was no cash register.
2. _____ Though she knows the prices of everything, she has to check because lately they change so often.
3. _____ Babe finds it impossible to handle a cash register like a secretary does a typewriter.
4. _____ Babe really doesn't care whether or not people shoplift.
5. _____ Babe is not satisfied with the benefits the union can provide.
6. _____ Babe is not impressed by the way most young girls work.
7. _____ Babe feels that there is more tension today than there was years ago.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. In what ways does Babe compare the operation of the cash register with the operation of a typewriter?
2. How does Babe spot a shoplifter?
3. a. How much does Babe earn?
   b. What other benefits does she receive?
4. How does Babe compare herself to the younger girls?
5. How has the atmosphere in the store changed in recent years?
6. Why does Babe prefer the supermarket to factory work?
7. What are the most important qualities for a good checker to have?
8. How can the checker help "make or break" a market?

**C. Project**

Visit your local supermarket prepared to evaluate the areas Babe talked about. Report back to class with your findings.

**WAITRESS**
Dolores Dante

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Dolores Dante became a waitress because she needed the money.
2. _____ Dolores is a very outspoken person.
3. _____ Dolores gets along well with all her customers.
4. _____ She thinks being a waitress is an easy job.
5. _____ She doesn't count her tips right away because it would be dull for her to know how much she is making every minute.
6. _____ Dolores likes most bosses.
7. _____ She sometimes has conflicts with the other waitresses and the cooks she works with.
8. _____ Dolores is a little ashamed of being a waitress.
9. _____ She keeps her station clean mostly because she hopes to get big tips.
10. _____ Most waitresses eat very well, according to Dolores, because there is plenty of food available.

**B. Questions**

1. From this interview it appears that there are some very tough things about being a waitress. Dolores even cries at the end. What are some of the things that cause this stress and pressure?

2. In spite of the pressure, Dolores seems to get more out of her job than just the money. What are some of these things she finds rewarding? Would she be just as happy in an assembly line job?

3. How would Cathleen Moran, the hospital aide, make out in this job?

**HOUSEWIFE**
Therese Carter

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____Therese feels that a housewife need not have any special talents.
2. _____Therese accomplishes most of her work after supper.
3. _____Therese feels that she should get paid for each job.
4. _____Therese admires women who have outside jobs.
5. _____Therese doesn't find time for things she likes to do, such as reading.
6. _____Therese is impressed with Women's Lib.
7. _____Therese is looking forward to the time when the children leave the house.
8. _____Therese's greatest satisfaction is knowing that she's needed.

**B. Questions for discussion.**

1. Do you think that housewives in general have special talents? Explain.
2. When did Therese get the impression that anybody can be a housewife?
3. Is the husband who goes out to work more important to the family than the housewife? Explain.
4. What are Therese's hobbies?
5. What was the reaction of neighbors when Therese took some college courses?
6. What kinds of things does Therese look forward to doing when her children leave the house?
7. In what way does Therese feel she has an advantage over her husband and his occupation?
8. What are the goals of Women's Lib? What is your reaction?

**C. Projects**

1. Devise a list of questions based on this interview. Use them to discover how your mother (or a friend) compares to Therese Carter.

2. Work with a housewife to devise a pay scale for her weekly work. List the tasks she performs, the number of times, and a rate for each.

**BASEBALL PLAYER**
Steve Hamilton

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Hamilton felt very proud when a stranger recognized him.
2. _____ Age is unimportant if a player has potential.
3. _____ Approximately half of the players who sign contracts eventually make the big leagues.
4. _____ The average player's stay in the majors is only 2-4 years.
5. _____ Hamilton admits that traveling conditions are much improved today.
6. _____ Hamilton feels that pitching has become more difficult in recent years.
7. _____ Hamilton agrees that ball players are overpaid.
8. _____ Because he's away so often, Hamilton is really not the head of the household.
9. _____ Hamilton feels that baseball has become more of a business than a sport.
10. _____ The watching of players, like the bed check, is necessary.

**B. Questions for discussion.**

1. How does being recognized make Hamilton feel?
2. How important is the age of a player to a scout?
3. What are the chances of making the big leagues once you sign a contract?
4. How does Hamilton feel about the current schedule as it affects traveling, sleeping, leisure time, etc?
5. What does Hamilton mean when he talks of the lack of status in the craft?
6. What are Hamilton's complaints about trading procedures?
7. How has baseball affected Hamilton's home life?
8. What's different about many of the current players?
9. What's a "clubhouse lawyer"?
10. Why would many owners prefer not to really know the players?
11. In what way are the players treated like children?
12. What's the blacklist in baseball?
13. Who are the front runners that Hamilton dislikes so?
14. Do you think that the players are overpaid?

**C. Project**

Formulate a list of advantages and disadvantages in being a professional athlete. After discussion the lists could be held for comparison with the points made by Hamilton.

## TV/RADIO EXECUTIVE
Ward Quaal

**A. According to Ward Quaal are the following statements true or false?**

1. _____ Retirement is something to look forward to.
2. _____ While at home a person should relax and not think about work.
3. _____ Mail and the telephone, that's the name of the game in broadcasting.
4. _____ Executives should not be addressed by their first names by employees.
5. _____ For an executive to become successful he/she must have a good staff of workers.

**B. Questions for discussion.**

1. What did Ward Quaal's working day consist of? When did it start? When did it end?

2. What type of salary do you think is appropriate for this job? Consider the amount of time put into work.

3. a. What was Ward Quaal's family background?
   b. How did this background help him in later years?

4. Do you think that Ward Quaal was a family man? Good husband? Father? Why or why not?

5. Do you think Ward Quaal is worth a high salary? How useful is he to his company? To society?

**C. Projects**

Being a TV and Radio Executive has its advantages and disadvantages. Keeping in mind what you have read about Ward Quaal and also your own personal opinion, make a list of these advantages and disadvantages. Decide whether you want to have this job or not.

**EX-SHIPPING CLERK**
Joe Zmuda

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Joe Zmuda worked for 15 years at his last job.
2. _____ Joe received a large pension.
3. _____ Joe's brother-in-law died in a plane crash.
4. _____ On Sunday evenings Joe played shuffleboard with his landlord.
5. _____ Joe lived in a very safe neighborhood.
6. _____ Many people thought Joe was absent-minded.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. What was Joe's job before he retired?
2. What were the first two years of retirement like for Joe?
3. What is Joe's financial status during retirement?
4. What sentence in this story tells you when the interview is taking place?
5. What did Joe's routine consist of on weekends?
6. Right after Joe retired some people told him, "Joe, you got your health and you shouldna done it." Do you agree with these people? Why or why not?
7. a. Give some examples of Joe's ability to reminisce.
   b. Do you think that this is a sign of old age? Why?

**C. Projects**

1. Look into a Pension Plan and make a chart to show how the number of years of service affects the amount of pension you receive.
2. Discuss the problems of retirement.

## DEPARTMENT STORE SALESMAN
Ralph Werner

**A. According to Ralph Werner are the following statements true or false?**

1. _____ Prejudice seems to exist in his neighborhood.
2. _____ He graduated from high school as an honor student.
3. _____ America is the best country in the world to live.
4. _____ Working in the mills is a dirty, boring job.
5. _____ The laborers (blue-collar workers) were mean and nasty.
6. _____ The upper class has a deeper concern for life and the political system.
7. _____ The problem with the retailing business is that it is too seasonal. There is a lot of standing around.
8. _____ The constant traveling as a salesman is exciting.
9. _____ It is important to have a job in which you can express yourself.
10. _____ The middle class gets a better taste of life.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. Ralph Werner never wanted to work in the mills. What reasons did he give for disliking it as much as he did?

2. What are some of the problems with being a salesman?

3. a. What is Ralph Werner's opinion of competition?
   b. He hopes to get into advertising but what one factor can cause him to get "caught up in a rut?"

4. Considering today's economic situation, what advice would you give Ralph Werner during his job hunt?

**C. Projects**

Go to at least two (2) stores and find out what benefits are available to salesmen. (e.g. health & hospitalization insurance, employee discount, etc.)

(A) Considering salary scale, benefits, and hours write a paragraph or two on why you would like to be a salesman.

(B) Why you would not want to be a salesman.

**HOSPITAL AIDE**
Cathleen Moran

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Cathleen comes from a happy family.
2. _____ Cathleen is going to become a nurse because she likes the contact with the patients.
3. _____ Cathleen treats the patients better than some of the nurses treat them.
4. _____ When she was in school, Cathleen admired a tough nun because she was good at her job.
5. _____ According to Cathleen, most of the nurse aides like their job.
6. _____ Cathleen wasn't particularly afraid when she was locked in the morgue.
7. _____ Cathleen thinks she might be a teacher some day.
8. _____ She doesn't really care whether her patients live or die.

**B. Questions**

1. Describe the duties Cathleen performs as a hospital aide.

2. What is the thing that Cathleen likes least about her job? How might this affect the way she performs the job?

3. How might Cathleen's own background have affected the way she feels toward the patients?

## GRAVEDIGGER
Elmer Ruiz

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Elmer Ruiz has been a gravedigger all his life.
2. _____ Elmer Ruiz never completed his high school education.
3. _____ Gravediggers in New York went on strike for more money.
4. _____ Graves are usually dug entirely by hand.
5. _____ Coffins are usually lowered into graves by machines.

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. a. Does the gravedigger have pride in his work? (Explain)
   b. Give an example of how pride in work would favorably affect a task in your trade.

2. What personal qualities make this gravedigger successful at his job?

3. What is the gravedigger's philosophy for coping with the death of loved ones?

4. Explain the mechanics of digging and filling graves.

5. What effects do the seasons of the year have on the gravedigger's job?

6. How can you tell that this gravedigger has had little formal education?

7. The gravedigger has become accustomed to seeing grief, but some funerals still "turn" him. Which funerals are they?

8. On whom does the gravedigger blame vandalism in the cemetery?

9. How important to society is the gravedigger? Do you think he is paid according to his worth?

**C. Projects**

1. People in many occupations confront tragedy on a regular basis. (Doctors, nurses, morticians, policemen, firemen are some examples). Choose one such person and interview him/her to find out how he/she copes with the problem. Write up your findings and be prepared to report back to the class.

2. The gravedigger found that some people were happy to see loved ones who had suffered finally die. Decide how you feel about "mercy killing" and in a composition support your position.

3. Deal with "mercy killing" as a group project in the form of a debate.

**CARPENTER/POET**
Nick Lindsay

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Nick Lindsay is married and the father of ten (10) children.
2. _____ Lindsay writes poetry for himself and family and does not share it with the public.
3. _____ Vachel Lindsay, Nick's father, was a doctor as well as a celebrated poet.
4. _____ The one man Nick Lindsay learned a lot from in relation to carpentry was his father.
5. _____ Nick Lindsay was a high school drop-out.
6. _____ According to Nick Lindsay a person does not work for himself, but for the person who pays him some kind of wage.
7. _____ Nick believes that any work you do in which you kneel is a kind of worship.
8. _____ Lindsay said that a craftsman's life is nothing but compromise.
9. _____ A carpenter hammers a nail fast so he can hurry and start on the next nail.
10. _____ Lindsay refused to work at an H-bomb plant

**B. Questions for discussion**

1. a. Do you think that Nick Lindsay considered carpentry a form of art? Why?
   b. Do you think he considered poetry a form of art? Why?

2. The Lindsays have been carpenters from right on back to 1755. What, in your opinion, are the good (and bad) aspects of 'following in your father's footsteps' in relation to business?

3. Why was Nick Lindsay not bothered by the fact that he was working at an H-bomb plant?

4. Explain the importance of the carpenter to society.

5. Explain the importance of the poet to society.

**POLICEMAN**
Bob Patrick

**A. Write true or false for each of the following statements.**

1. _____ Bob Patrick has a high regard for human life.
2. _____ When flushing someone out of a building, Bob first fires a couple of shots through the door.
3. _____ Bob doesn't think the Vietnam war has played much of a role in current violence.
4. _____ Bob feels that now that he has been on the police force for a while, he must set an example for the younger men.
5. _____ Reading about other people's deaths doesn't affect Bob any more.

**B. Questions**

1. How did Bob feel about the people of Bedford-Stuyvesant? How did they feel about him?

2. What sorts of emergencies is the Emergency Service truck equipped to handle?

3. What does Bob worry will happen to him after he's been on the job for a while? Give an example.

4. Compare Bob Patrick's feelings about being a policeman to the way Renault Robinson feels. What might account for the different points of view?

5. How would you like to be a cop?

6. What's your idea of a good cop?